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UNCLAS VIENNA 000963

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SUBJECT: UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

DEMARCHÉ: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE

REF: STATE 25999

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1. Post conveyed reftel demarche on the independent external evaluation of the FAO to Walter Lichem, Head of the international organizations office in the FMA and to Hedwig Woegerbauer, GoA official responsible for FAO issues in the Ministry of Agriculture.

2. In a follow-up, Lichem told us that the GoA supports the FAO's external evaluation, but had no information about whether the GoA would provide a voluntary contribution. Lichem noted that, as the lead ministry on FAO issues, the MoA will ultimately decide if the GoA will contribute or not.

BROWN